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GEORGE EAMES BARSTOW

Shall Democracy Endure

By
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Barstow, Texas
U. S. A.

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“Where Washington hath left
“His awful memory
“A light for after times!”
—Southey.

“Babylon,
Learned and wise, hath perished utterly,
Nor leaves her speech one word to aid the sigh
That would lament her.”
—Wordsworth.

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The fundamental issue of the great world war has been and is Autocracy anent Democracy. That there has been for so long years past great strife in international commerce is well understood by all careful observers and students of international affairs, many of whom attribute the present awful world chaos and upheaval to its clashing.

While all the great powers have been unquestionably aggressive in their foreign commerce, the underlying motive has been with the exception of Germany, the furtherance of commercial profit and its concomitant advantages accruing to the people of these nations in broad economic and social uplift. They had obtained their "Place in the Sun" and were content! Germany had also acquired her place within the same sphere; but, was avariciously discontent. Germany was not only egregiously different from the other great powers in this respect; but coup-

led therewith was in every and most insidious ways fastening her political tentacles upon every part of the world. her Emperor and autocratic attendants seeking nothing short of a German Empire of the world. The Kaiser's cry as to the "Freedom of the Seas" has been but a subterfuge to blind the minds of the unknowing! The fact remains, that Germany has thru all these years enjoyed the utmost "Freedom of the Seas. Her ships could enter and have found free ports in every corner of the world. Her commerce and her great colonies of citizens denized on the soil of all the nations have lived and prospered everywhere under the most favored clause of nations. Her sincerity of conduct has not been questioned, or under espionage; notwithstanding during all this time she has had a great army of spies in all quarters of the earth. At the same time Germany has not been reciprocal in conduct toward the commerce of the other powers within her colonies! If we are to judge of the world's broadest political freedom and evolution of nationality by contrast, the nations would and do cry out for the "Freedom of the Seas" as now obtains and which finds its solution and permanence in the great and living and essential principal that naval power must be exercised as a bond promotive of peace and not conquest. For the past hundred years the greatest naval power in the world has been governed by this principle and its virtue is ingrained in its statecraft. The further we investigate and the more critical we may be in our analysis of the underlying cause of the world war, the more convinced we shall become that the same is not found in world commerce. That was with Germany simply a means to an end! To be sure, if Germany enjoyed the "Freedom of of Seas" which met the view point of her autocratic rulers, she would be content, for her influence would only cease when she was all controlling. She would have exercised that power for conquest and not as a bond of peace. Her merchants and manufacturers would enjoy boundless profits for themselves; and the increment of their fortune provide more largess for despotic sway.

Germany represents a nation wherein seventy thousand people—autocrats—absolutely control seventy millions of people—their servants! The Emperor assumes to rule by Divine appointment and his word is final in all state affairs. He is a fetich among his people! He controls almost the entire press of the nation and thereby creates such public opinion as may suit his caprice. The great universities and schools lie under his power by and thru which a propaganda has been taught by his adroit and able lieutenants, than which none could scarcely have been more monstrous, and looking toward the emasculation of other peoples and nations only so that his avarice and world ambitions might be satisfied. He would have all the world possessed of German Kultur, even though he must attain that end by force. The consummation and epitome of egoism!

“For having greed of life

“Forget to live.”

Can we marvel that world thought and ethical purpose was anent Germany? That the world conviction was and is that the German Government is striking at the very vitals of democracy? That the question of the liberties of the peoples and nations was hanging in the balance? There is no doubt that all the British colonies and dependencies were before the war as they all are more than ever now, sincerely devoted to the motherland! But, is that devotion the only cause of their marvelous sacrifice in blood and treasure in the war? We find the full solution in the fact that they foresaw that a gigantic blow was being struck at the very fundamental principles of democratic government as practiced under British sway? The British Colonies from Australia to India and from India to Africa and from Africa to Canada and thence to the islands of the seas foresaw, that as Byron tells us in *Childe Harold*,

“While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;

“When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;

“And when Rome falls,—the World.”

Listen to the words of loyalty as uttered by Sir Satyendra Sinha, president of the India National Congress, at Bombay in

December 1915:

‘The question which, above all others, is engrossing our minds at the present moment is the War, and the supreme feeling which arises in our minds is one of deep admiration for the selfimposed burden which England’s bearing in the struggle for liberty and freedom, and a feeling of profound pride that India has not fallen behind other portions of the British Empire but has stood shoulder to shoulder with them by the side of the Imperial Mother in the hour of her sorest trial. In the great galaxy of heroes, in the imperishable Roll of Honour, there are now, and there will never cease to be, beloved Indian names testifying to the fact that our people would rather die unsullied than outlive the disgrace of surrender to a bastard civilization. The War has given India an opportunity, as nothing else could have done, of demonstrating the courage, bravery and tenacity of her troops, even when pitted against the best organized armies of the world, and also the capacity of her sons of all classes, creeds and nationalities to rise as one people under the stimulus of an overpowering emotion. That the wave of loyalty which has swept over India has touched the hearts of all classes have been ungrudgingly admitted even by unfriendly critics. India has risen to the occasion, and her princes and peoples have vied with each other in rallying round the imperial standard at a time when the enemies of the Empire counted on disaffection and internal troubles. The spectacle affords a striking proof as much of the wisdom of these statesmen who have in recent years guided the destiny of the British Empire in India as of the fitness of the Indian people to grasp the dignity and the responsibilities of citizenship of a world-wide Empire’

New Zealand’s and Australia’s people were fully alive to to the situation as discovered by the words of Hon. Thomas McKenzie, Prime Minister of New Zealand:

‘ I doubt if any event chronicled in history has so fired the imagination and kindled the anger of a people, and indeed, of the world, as Germany,s infamous treatment of Belgium. But

this I do know, it fired the heart of New Zealand, and when it was decided to send an Expeditionary Force to the Front to aid Great Britain and her Allies, there was an almost turbulent desire on the part of our youth and manhood to enlist. Long accustomed though they were to the arts of production and quite unaccustomed to those of destruction, they seemed to realize instinctively that something more than the safety, security and restoration of Belgium was at stake."

Hear again the recent testimony of the Sultan of Egypt as to British rule:

"I have great hopes for Egypt. Without hope no man's life would be worth living. So I am ever hopeful and I believe that under the protection of England, the greatest of liberal powers, the future of Egypt is assured. Had it not been for my faith in the British Government and my belief that there would be a gradual increase in the rights granted us in the matter of self-rule I should have never undertaken the task. From a personal standpoint I had nothing to gain."

The fundamental significance of this great, and horrible world war is found in a dynamic battle of ideas. The German people, at large, have not yet found themselves. But, the German autocratic rulers intend that the world shall be ruled by their Kultur, in peace if may be; if not, then by force. Hence "her enemies," which have been self-created, arise from all parts of the world in all their manhood to arrest and overthrow her craven purposes and to reestablish a political and ethical norm that will usher in the living ideals of democracy. Herein lies the cause of countless fields being watered by the blood of millions of men thru sacrifice; of great numbers of towns and cities with all their temples and monuments of art and learning laid waste; of multitudes of innocent women and children tortured and outraged.

Is the object worth the cost? Is the evolution of world democracy to be stopped? Is the egotistical and insatiable appetite for power of a few men to be satisfied? A mighty chorus of voices from all the peoples, nations and tribes of the

world arise and reply in the negative.

And what of the aftermath? "Watchmen tell us of the night?" Already we have seen the first glimmers of dawn. The prophets and seers of our time inform us that there will be a new day and that the sunlight of democracy will shine with greater resplendency than ever before. Why? Because founded upon justice and not upon error. Error is defined as transgression; so that as in the case of our inquiry there has been transgression upon the human rights and liberties of some nations and the world cries out in protest. From time to time in all the past errors have invaded the governments of both church and state, and they have been overthrown. Such will undoubtedly be the result in the present world conflict, and democracy will issue in triumph!

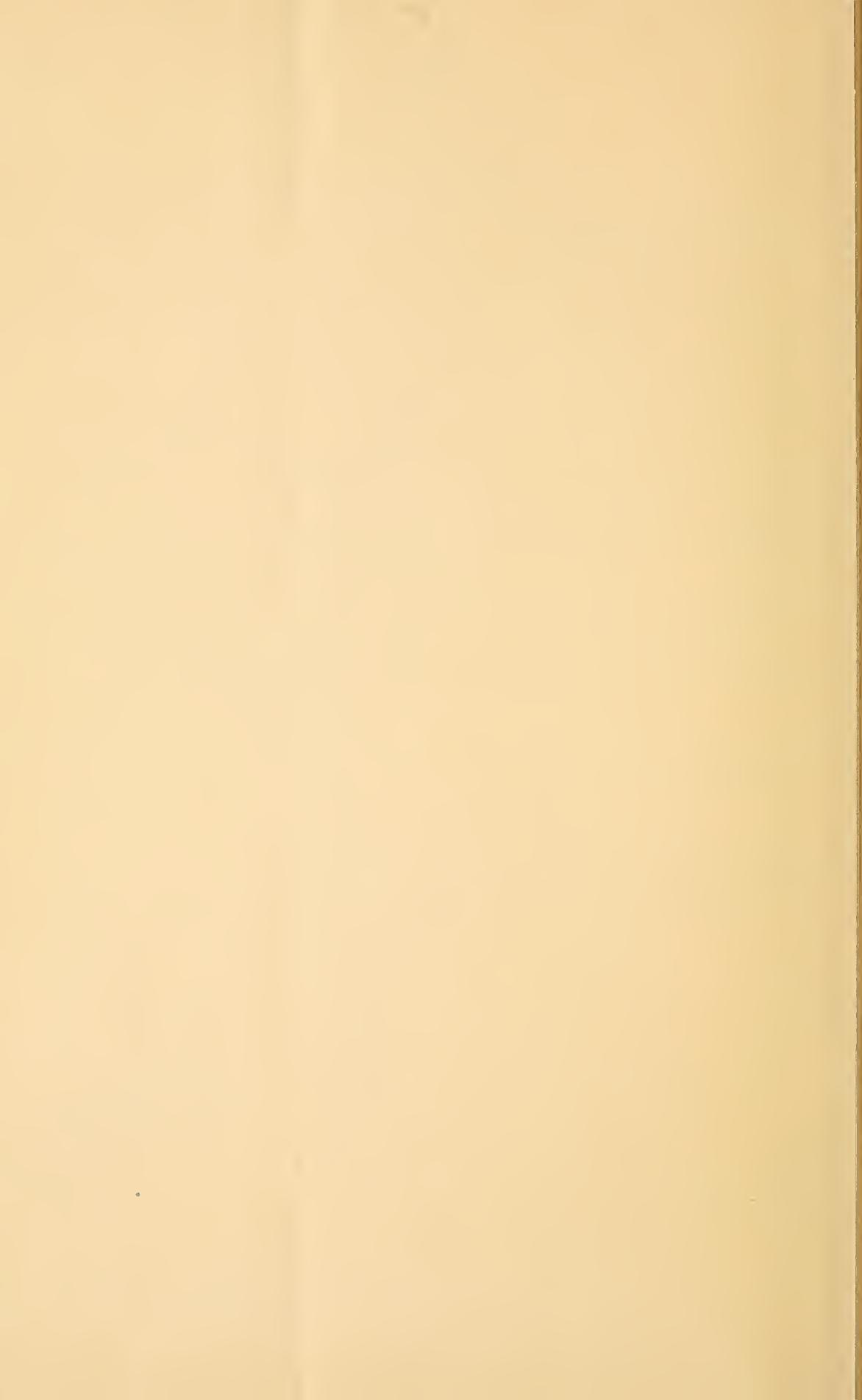
As the French Premier Briand recently said, "when peace has been declared, we shall have won a victory over ourselves as we shall have won it over the Germans. No more divisions or local tyrannies, no more hatred of church steeples. There will be only one France."

And, there will be but one Germany! But, a Germany ruled by its people on broad lines of democracy and not having their liberties smothered by autocratic rule,

The hope of the world lies in Democracy—Liberty under Law and its marvelous army of adherents have reason to believe that out of all of the darkness and horrors of the present there will issue Triumphant Democracy.

Barstow, Texas.





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